

Interactive Network Guide

Abstract

An interactive network guide acts as a computer-based decision support aid for
5 computer novices to design and build a network, such as for a home or small office
environment. The guide presents a sequence of questions to gather input data from a user
describing the user's computers and environment. The guide evaluates this input data
and presents one or more suitable network topologies, which may include hybrid
solutions. The guide then dynamically generates a network diagram, shopping list and
10 setup instructions for the user's selection from the suitable network topologies.